

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman, Committee on
Appropriations
The U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
The U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. The funding would be used for to continue funding the feasibility study to deepen and widen the Federal Navigation Channel to the Port of Gulfport. The project began in FY 2023 when \$200,000.00 was appropriated for the first year of the project. It is anticipated that the study will be completed in three years.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because, currently the Port has limited depth that limits which vessels it can attract. The average vessel size to the Gulf of Mexico carries 6,300 TEU, while the maximum vessel size that can enter the Port of Gulfport carries 2,602 TEU. Vessels currently calling the Port cannot utilize their full capacity and have to unload cargo to reduce draft prior to entering the Port of Gulfport.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA; P.L. 113-121, 33 U.S.C. §2282d).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Mike Ezell
Member of Congress